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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/728,577	12/05/2003	Scott A. Burton	57260US003	8901
32692 7590 07/24/2009 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY PO BOX 33427 ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427				
EXAMINER FUBARA, BLESSING M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1618				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/24/2009		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/728,577

Applicant(s)

BURTON ET AL.

Examiner

BLESSING M. FUBARA

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Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-26, 60 and 75-121 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9, 10, 20, 79-81, 85-87, 95, 96, 102 and 108-121 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 2-8, 11-19, 21-26, 60, 75-78, 82-84, 88-94, 97-101 and 103-107 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-846)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/21/08, 3/2/2009
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The examiner acknowledges receipt of response to the election/restriction requirement filed 4/23/09. The examiner further acknowledges receipt of IDS amendment and remarks filed 8/21/2008. Claims 71 and 74 are cancelled. Claims 2-7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17-22, 60, 75 and 76 are amended. New claims 77-121 are added. Claims 2-26, 60 and 75-121 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 77, 78, 2-17, 19-26, 60 and 75 (claim 77 and dependent claims), 82, 18, 76, 83, 84 and 88-107 (claim 82 and dependent claims) in the reply filed on 1/02/09 and 4/23/09 is acknowledged. Applicant has also elected elastomeric polymer and foam as the species. Applicant has therefore indicated that claims 2-8, 13-19, 21-26, 60, 75-78, 82-84, 88-94, 99-101 and 103-107 read on the elected species. Claims 11, 12, 97 and 98 recite hydrophilic polymer that can be polyurethane. Therefore, claims 11, 12, 97 and 98 are included in the examined claims. Claims 9, 10, 20, 79-81, 85-87, 95, 96, 102 and 108-121 are withdrawn from consideration.

Response to Arguments

Rejections that are not reiterated herein are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
4. Claims 2-8, 11-19, 21-26, 60, 75-78, 82-84, 88-94, 97-101 and 103-107 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lorenz et al. (US 6,217,889).
5. Independent claims 77 and 82 and dependent claims 26 and 107 are product by process claims. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process.” In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). In the present case, the claims are directed to a product and patentability of the claims is not dependent on how the product is made.
6. Lorenz discloses compositions comprising a) synthetic polymer such as polyamides, polyurethane foam and polyesters (column 4, lines 49-64), which is constituent of the creped non-woven layer of the composition in the form of film or sponges (column 4, lines 12, 13; column 6, lines 48-51; column 8, lines 37-40), b) therapeutic agents such as silver nitrate antiviral agents (column 31, line 64) or zinc oxide sunscreen actives (column 32, lines 28 and 29), c) composition may also contain cationic lathering surfactants such as fatty amines, di-fatty

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quatarnary amines, tri-fatty quatarnary amines, imidazolium quatarnary amines, monalkyl quatarnary amines, cetyltrimethylammonium bromide, dialklamidoethyl hydroxyethylmonium methosulfate and combinations thereof (column 14, lines 32-46); the composition may also contain dyes or preservatives (Example 8) and silicone antifoaming agent (column 24, line 1), d) the composition of Lorenz is an emulsion with water in oil emulsion preferred (column 23, lines 46-57) and the oils used in the emulsion are animal or plant or petroleum oils (column 23, lines 47-52), mineral oils are listed under the section of hydrophobic conditioning agents (column 20, lines 1-38). Combinations of polymers are contemplated (column 4, lines 54). Lorenz suggests that polymeric gelling agents in the form of particles can be used (column 35, lines 21-23 and 28). The creped non woven layer of the composition is comprised of fibers, foams, scrims, etc (column 4, lines 10-47) and these non woven substrates in eth form of scrims or apertured materials (column 5, lines 53-58) meet the requirement for apertured permeable substrate and polymeric fibers; the polymers in the emulsion of Lorenz comprising the cleansing component that foam or lather (column 9, lines 63-67) meet the limitations of physical expandable 21-23, 104 and 105 and since microspheres are particles, the microspheres of claims 24 and 106 read on polymer particles in the emulsion Lorenz.

7. The oil in the water in oil emulsion of Lorenz meets the requirement for the hydrophobic continuous phase of claims 77 and 82. Silver nitrate is a silver compound that meets the requirement for a silver compound bioactive agent of claims 77 and 82. The solubility of a silver compound in water of at least 0.1 gram per liter is the characteristic property of the silver compound such that the silver nitrate, a silver compound, would also have that characteristic property. Claims 78 and 83 recite the properties of the composition that would be displayed

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when the composition is coated on a substrate and the composition of Lorenz would also display those characteristic properties when coated on a substrate. The polyurethane form of Lorenz meets the foam of claims 21 and 103. Combinations of polymers are contemplated by Lorenz (column 4, lines 54) meeting claims 17 and 101. The quaternary amine compounds of Lorenz meet the quaternary amine compound requirements of claims 13, 14, 77, 82, 88-92 and 99. The stability of the composition in claim 25 is a property that is met by the composition of Lorenz, which has not described the composition as unstable. Although Lorenz suggests that the polymer can be particles (column 35, lines 21-23 and 28), Lorenz does not specifically teach the sizes of the particles. It is known in the art that emulsions contain particles and applicant's specification has not declared or demonstrated that the particles sizes recited in claims 77, 82, 2-5, 88-91 provides unexpected results so that the particle sizes of these claims would be obvious over the particles of Lorenz. Claims 5, 6, 91 and 92 recite the properties of the polymer particles as being super absorbent and the polymers of Lorenz, being the same are also super absorbent. Polyurethane is recited as elastomeric polymer in claim 8 and 94, therefore, the polyurethane of Lorenz meets claims 7, 8, 93 and 94; the polyurethane also meets the hydrophilic polymer of claims 11, 12, 97 and 98. Dyes, preservatives and silicone antifoaming agent meet the additive of claims 15 and 100.

8. While Lorenz anticipates hydrophilic polymeric particles, Lorenz is silent in the %amount of the hydrophilic polymer and the silence is an indication that any amount of the polymer can be used since compositions are made from measured amounts of components so that the ordinary skilled artisan has the capability of using amounts of the components for the composition of Lorenz that would be suitable for the intended use of the composition.

Therefore, taking the teachings of Lorenz, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would use polymer particles in the emulsion in amounts such that the emulsion would be effective for the intended use of the composition. In the absence of unexpected results, the broad % amount of the polymer particles in amounts of 1-60 wt-% is not inventive over the prior art composition that is silent on the amounts.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 8/21/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

10. In the response filed 8/21/08, applicant indicates that because claim 18 was not included in the rejections over Lorenz and because the limitations of claim 18 has been incorporated into claim 71 in new independent claim 77, the rejections over Lorenz is rendered moot. But, Lorenz is described above as rendering the claims obvious. The oil in the emulsion of Lorenz meets the limitation of the continuous hydrophobic liquid phase.

Double Patenting

11. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting

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ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

12. Claims 2-8, 11-19, 21-26, 60, 75-78, 82-84, 88-94, 97-101 and 103-107 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 94-117; 1-4, 6-35, 37-39 and 45-50 of copending Application Nos. 10/728,439; 10/728,446 respectively. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the examined claims and the co-pending claims are directed to composition that contains bioactive silver compounds, polymer matrix, foaming agent and the composition is used as care for wounds.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

13. Claims 2-8, 11-19, 21-26, 60, 75-78, 82-84, 88-94, 97-101 and 103-107 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 and 5-28 of copending Application No. 10/729,114 in view of Asmus (5,270,358). The copending application discloses the composition of the examined claims except that the claims are silent as to whether the composition contains oil. But the co-pending claims contain the same polymers and the composition is used as wound dressing composition. However, Asmus discloses an emulsion that comprises the composition of the copending application for use in wound care. Therefore, it would have been obvious to use the composition of the co-pending application as an emulsion in wound treatment.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments filed 8/21/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant proposes to address the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection when allowable subject matter is identified. However, the rejection is maintained will continue to be made until the rejection is overcome as stated in MPEP 804 [R-5], I B, that "the "provisional" double patenting rejection should continue to be made by the examiner in each application as long as there are conflicting claims in more than one application unless that "provisional" double patenting rejection is the only rejection remaining in at least one of the applications." As noted above, the provisional obviousness double patenting rejection is not the only rejection remaining in this examined application. Thus rejection is maintained and is not held in abeyance.

Information Disclosure Statement

15. The examiner thanks applicant for asking the examiner to disregard the request made on 2/21/08 for consideration of IDS listed as Exhibit A.

16. No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BLESSING M. FUBARA whose telephone number is (571)272-0594. The examiner can normally be reached on 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Monday to Thursday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Hartley can be reached on (571) 272-0616. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Blessing M. Fubara/
Examiner, Art Unit 1618